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(54) **LIQUID OR GRANULAR AUTOMATIC DISHWASHING DETERGENT COMPOSITIONS**

FLÜSSIGES ODER KÖRNIGES MASCHINENGESCHIRRSPÜLMITTEL

COMPOSITIONS DE DETERGENT LIQUIDE OU GRANULAIRE POUR LAVE-VAISSELLE

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(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 239 379 EP-A- 0 308 221
EP-A- 0 364 067 EP-A- 0 518 721
EP-A- 0 519 603 US-A- 4 203 858
US-A- 4 530 766

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Description**TECHNICAL FIELD**

5 This invention is in the field of liquid and granular automatic dishwashing compositions. More specifically, the invention relates to compositions containing builder (i.e. citrate, carbonate and/or phosphate), low molecular weight modified polyacrylate copolymers, and enzyme.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Liquid and granular automatic dishwashing detergent components while necessary for various cleaning benefits, often can create other problems. For example, carbonate, and phosphate, conventional detergent ingredients, are known to contribute to formation of hard water film on glasses.

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Organic dispersants can overcome the problem of unsightly films which form on china, especially on glassware, due to calcium- or magnesium-hardness- induced precipitation of pH-adjusting agents. However not all dispersants work as well on the various types of precipitation.

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Although conventional low molecular weight polyacrylate homopolymers are satisfactory in the dispersion of insoluble calcium carbonate in automatic dishwashing detergent compositions, it has recently been found that low molecular weight modified polyacrylate copolymers enhance filming performance in automatic dishwashing detergent compositions.

In addition, not only do the low molecular weight modified polyacrylates of the present invention prevent hard water filming due to precipitation but it has been surprisingly found that these modified polyacrylate copolymers show improved enzyme performance (i.e. bulk food removal) in enzyme containing automatic dishwashing detergent compositions.

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EP-A1-0,239,379 describes a detergent composition for use in a machine dishwasher comprising an oxygen bleach, a proteolytic enzyme and a polyacrylate, exhibiting water-spot reduction properties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention encompasses a liquid or granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition comprising:

- (a) from 0.01% to 90% detergency builder;
- (b) from 0.1% to 20% modified polyacrylate copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 15,000; and
- (c) from 0.001% to 5% deterative enzyme.

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A preferred liquid or granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition herein comprises carbonate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention is a liquid or granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition comprising:

- (a) from 0.01% to 90% detergency builder;
- (b) from 0.1% to 20% modified polyacrylate copolymer having a molecular weight less than 15,000; and
- (c) from 0.001% to 5% deterative enzyme.

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Compositions of the invention exhibit enhanced hard water filming performance and improved enzyme performance by the presence of low molecular weight modified polyacrylate copolymers.

DETERGENCY BUILDER

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The detergency builders used can be any of the detergency builders known in the art, which include the various water-soluble, alkali metal, ammonium or substituted ammonium phosphates, polyphosphates, phosphonates, polyphosphonates, carbonates, bicarbonates, borates, polyhydroxysulfonates, polyacetates, carboxylates (e.g. citrates), and polycarboxylates. Preferred are the alkali metal, especially sodium, salts of the above and mixtures thereof.

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The amount of builder is from 0.01% to 90%, preferably from 15% to 80%, most preferably from 15% to 75% by weight of the automatic dishwashing detergent composition.

Specific examples of inorganic phosphate builders are sodium and potassium tripolyphosphate, pyrophosphate, polymeric metaphosphate having a degree of polymerization of from 6 to 21, and orthophosphate. Examples of

polyphosphonate builders are sodium and potassium salts of ethylene diphosphonic acid, the sodium and potassium salts of ethane 1-hydroxy-1, 1-diphosphonic acid and the sodium and potassium salts of ethane, 1,1,2-triphosphonic acid. A particularly preferred polyphosphonate builder component is ethane 1-hydroxy-1, 1 diphosphonic acid or its alkali metal salts, which demonstrates calcium carbonate crystal growth inhibition properties, present at a level of from 0.01% to 20%, preferably from 0.1% to 10%, most preferably from 0.2% to 5% by weight of the compositions. Other phosphorus builder compounds are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,159,581; 3,213,030; 3,422,021; 3,422,137, 3,400,176 and 3,400,148.

Examples of non-phosphorus, inorganic builders are sodium and potassium carbonate, bicarbonate, sesquicarbonate and hydroxide.

Water-soluble, non-phosphorus organic builders useful herein include the various alkali metal, ammonium and substituted ammonium polyacetates, carboxylates, polycarboxylates and polyhydroxysulfonates. Examples of polyacetate and polycarboxylate builders are the sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium and substituted ammonium salts of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, tartrate monosuccinic acid, tartrate disuccinic acid, oxydisuccinic acid, carboxy methyloxysuccinic acid, mellitic acid, benzene polycarboxylic acids, and citric acid. The acidic forms of these builders can also be used, preferably citric acid.

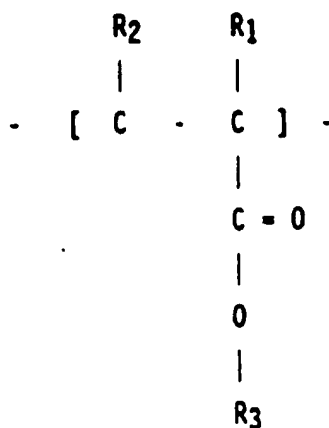
Preferred detergency builders have the ability to remove metal ions other than alkali metal ions from washing solutions by sequestration, which as defined herein includes chelation, or by precipitation reactions. Sodium tripolyphosphate is typically a particularly preferred detergency builder material because of its sequestering ability. Sodium citrate is also a particularly preferred detergency builder, particularly when it is desirable to reduce or eliminate the total phosphorus level of the compositions of the invention.

Particularly preferred automatic dishwashing detergent compositions of the invention contain, by weight of the automatic dishwashing detergent composition, from 5% to 40%, preferably from 10% to 30%, most preferably from 15% to 20%, of sodium carbonate. Particularly preferred as a replacement for the phosphate builder is sodium citrate with levels from 5% to 40%, preferably from 7% to 35%, most preferably from 8% to 30%, by weight of the automatic dishwashing detergent composition.

LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT MODIFIED POLYACRYLATES

The present invention can contain from 0.1% to 20%, preferably from 1% to 10%, most preferably from 3% to 8%, by weight of the automatic dishwashing detergent composition, of low molecular weight modified polyacrylate copolymers.

The term modified polyacrylate is defined as a copolymer which contains as monomer units: a) from 90% to 10%, preferably from 80% to 20% by weight acrylic acid or its salts and b) from 10% to 90%, preferably from 20% to 80% by weight of a substituted acrylic monomer or its salts having the general formula:



wherein at least one of the substituents R_1 , R_2 or R_3 , preferably R_1 or R_2 is a 1 to 4 carbon alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R_1 or R_2 can be a hydrogen and R_3 can be a hydrogen or alkali metal salt. Most preferred is a substituted acrylic monomer wherein R_1 is methyl, R_2 is hydrogen and R_3 is sodium.

The low molecular weight polyacrylate preferably has a molecular weight of less than 15,000, preferably from 500 to 10,000, most preferably from 1,000 to 5,000. The most preferred polyacrylate copolymer has a molecular weight of 3500 and is 70% by weight acrylic acid and 30% by weight methyl acrylic acid.

Suitable modified polyacrylate copolymers include the low molecular weight copolymers of unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,530,766, and 5,084,535.

Detergent Enzyme

The compositions of this invention may contain from 0.001% to 5%, more preferably from 0.003% to 4%, most preferably from 0.005% to 3%, by weight, of active detergent enzyme. The preferred detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of protease, amylase, lipase and mixtures thereof. Most preferred are protease or amylase or mixtures thereof.

The proteolytic enzyme can be of animal, vegetable or microorganism (preferred) origin. More preferred is serine proteolytic enzyme of bacterial origin. Purified or nonpurified forms of this enzyme may be used. Proteolytic enzymes produced by chemically or genetically modified mutants are included by definition, as are close structural enzyme variants. Particularly preferred is bacterial serine proteolytic enzyme obtained from Bacillus, Bacillus subtilis and/or Bacillus licheniformis.

Suitable proteolytic enzymes include Alcalase®, Esperase®, Durazym®, Savinase® (preferred); Maxatase®, Maxacal® (preferred), and Maxapem® 15 (protein engineered Maxacal); Purafect® (preferred) and subtilisin BPN and BPN'; which are commercially available. Preferred proteolytic enzymes are also modified bacterial serine proteases, such as those described in European Patent Number EP-251446, filed April 28, 1987 (particularly pages 17, 24 and 98), and which is called herein "Protease B", and in European Patent Application 199,404, Venegas, published October 29, 1986, which refers to a modified bacterial serine proteolytic enzyme which is called "Protease A" herein. Preferred proteolytic enzymes, then, are selected from the group consisting of Savinase®, Esperase®, Maxacal®, Purafect®, BPN', Protease A and Protease B, and mixtures thereof. Savinase® is most preferred.

Suitable lipases for use herein include those of bacterial, animal, and fungal origin, including those from chemically or genetically modified mutants.

Suitable bacterial lipases include those produced by Pseudomonas, such as Pseudomonas stutzeri ATCC 19.154, as disclosed in British Patent 1,372,034. Suitable lipases include those which show a positive immunological cross-reaction with the antibody of the lipase produced from the microorganism Pseudomonas fluorescens IAM 1057. This lipase and a method for its purification have been described in Japanese Patent Application 53-20487, laid open on February 24, 1978. This lipase is available under the trade name Lipas P "Amano®," hereinafter referred to as "Amano®-P." Such lipases would show a positive immunological cross reaction with the Amano®-P antibody, using the standard and well-known immunodiffusion procedure according to Ouchterlony (Acta. Med. Scand., 133, pages 76-79 (1950)). These lipases, and a method for their immunological cross-reaction with Amano-P, are also described in U.S. Patent 4,707,291, Thom et al., issued November 17, 1987. Typical examples thereof are the "Amano®-P" lipase, the lipase ex Pseudomonas fragi FERM P 1339 (available under the trade name Amano®-B), lipase ex Pseudomonas nitroreducens var. lipolyticum FERM P 1338 (available under the trade name Amano®-CES), lipases ex Chromobacter viscosum var. lipolyticum NRR1b 3673, and further Chromobacter viscosum lipases, and lipases ex Pseudomonas gladioli. A preferred lipase is derived from Pseudomonas pseudoalcaligenes, which is described in Granted European Patent, EP-B-0218272. Other lipases of interest are Amano® AKG and Bacillis Sp lipase (e.g. Solvay enzymes).

Other lipases which are of interest where they are compatible with the composition are those described in EP A 0 339 681, published November 28, 1990, EP A 0 385 401, published September 5, 1990, EO A 0 218 272, published April 15, 1987.

Suitable fungal lipases include those produced by Humicola lanuginosa and Thermomyces lanuginosus. Most preferred is lipase obtained by cloning the gene from Humicola lanuginosa and expressing the gene in Aspergillus oryzae as described in European Patent Application 0 258 068, commercially available under the trade name Lipolase® from Novo-Nordisk.

Any amylase suitable for use in a dishwashing detergent composition can be used in these compositions. Amylases include for example, α -amylases obtained from a special strain of B. licheniformis, described in more detail in British Patent Specification No. 1,296,839. Amylolytic enzymes include, for example, "Rapidase®", "Maxamyl®", "Termamyl®", " and "BAN®."

In a preferred embodiment, from about 0.001% to about 5%, preferably 0.005% to about 3%, by weight of active amylase can be used. Preferably from about 0.005% to about 3% by weight of active protease can be used. Preferably the amylase is "Maxamyl®" and/or "Termamyl®" and the protease is Savinase® and/or protease B.

Detergent Surfactants

The compositions of this invention can contain from 0.01% to 40%, preferably from 0.1% to 30% of a detergent surfactant. In the preferred automatic dishwashing detergent compositions of the invention the detergent surfactant is

most preferably low foaming itself or in combination with other components (i.e. suds suppressors) is low foaming.

Compositions which are chlorine bleach free do not require the surfactant to be bleach stable. However, since these compositions contain enzymes, the surfactant employed is preferably enzyme stable (enzyme compatible) and free of enzymatically reactive species. For example, when proteases and amylases are employed, the surfactant should be free of peptide or glycosidic bonds.

Desirable detergent surfactants include nonionic, anionic, amphoteric and zwitterionic detergent surfactants, and mixtures thereof.

Examples of nonionic surfactants include:

(1) The condensation product of 1 mole of a saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain, alcohol or fatty acid containing from 10 to 20 carbon atoms with from 4 to 40 moles of ethylene oxide. Particularly preferred is the condensation product of a fatty alcohol containing from 17 to 19 carbon atoms, with from 6 to 15 moles, preferably 7 to 12 moles, most preferably 9 moles, of ethylene oxide provides superior spotting and filming performance. More particularly, it is desirable that the fatty alcohol contain 18 carbon atoms and be condensed with from 7.5 to 12, preferably 9 moles of ethylene oxide. These various specific C₁₇-C₁₉ ethoxylates give extremely good performance even at lower levels (e.g., 2.5%-3%). At the higher levels (less than 5%), they are sufficiently low sudsing, especially when capped with a low molecular weight (C₁₋₆) acid or alcohol moiety, so as to minimize or eliminate the need for a suds-suppressing agent. Suds-suppressing agents in general tend to act as a load on the composition and to hurt long term spotting and filming characteristics.

(2) Polyethylene glycols or polypropylene glycols having molecular weight of from 1,400 to 30,000, e.g., 20,000; 9,500; 7,500; 7,500; 6,000; 4,500; 3,400; and 1,450. All of these materials are wax-like solids which melt between 110°F (43°C) and 200°F (93°C).

(3) The condensation products of 1 mole of alkyl phenol wherein the alkyl chain contains from 8 to 18 carbon atoms and from 4 to 50 moles of ethylene oxide.

(4) Polyoxypropylene, polyoxyethylene condensates having the formula HO(C₂H₆O)_x(C₃H₆O)_yH or HO(C₃H₆O)_y(C₂H₄O)_x(C₃H₆O)_yH where total y equals at least 15 and total (C₂H₄O) equals 20% to 90% of the total weight of the compound and the molecular weight is from 2,000 to 10,000, preferably from 3,000 to 6,000. These materials are, for example, the PLURONICS® from BASF which are well known in the art.

(5) the compounds of (1) and (4) which are capped with propylene oxide, butylene oxide and/or short chain alcohols and/or short chain fatty acids, e.g., those containing from 1 to about 5 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof.

Useful surfactants in detergent compositions are those having the formula RO-(C₂H₄O)_xR¹ wherein R is an alkyl or alkylene group containing from 17 to 19 carbon atoms, x is a number from about 6 to about 15, preferably from 7 to 12, and R¹ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl groups, C₂₋₅ acyl groups and groups having the formula -(C₃H₂O)_nH wherein y is 3 or 4 and n is a number from one to about 4.

Particularly suitable surfactants are the low-sudsing compounds of (4), the other compounds of (5), and the C₁₇-C₁₉ materials of (1) which have a narrow ethoxy distribution. Certain of the block co-polymer surfactant compounds designated PLURONIC®, PLURAFAC® and TETRONIC® by the BASF Corp., Parsippany, N.J. are suitable as the surfactant for use herein. A particularly preferred embodiment contains from 40% to 70% of a polyoxypropylene, polyoxyethylene block polymer blend comprising 75%, by weight of the blend, of a reverse block co-polymer of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene containing 17 moles of ethylene oxide and 44 moles of propylene oxide; and 25%, by weight of the blend, of a block co-polymer of polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene, initiated with tri-methylol propane, containing 99 moles of propylene oxide and 24 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of trimethylol propane.

Additional nonionic type surfactants which may be employed have melting points at or above ambient temperatures, such as octyldimethylamine N-oxide dihydrate, decyldimethylamine N-oxide dihydrate, C₈-C₁₂ N-methyl glucamides and the like. Such surfactants may advantageously be blended in the instant compositions with short-chain anionic surfactants, such as sodium octyl sulfate and similar alkyl sulfates, though short-chain sulfonates such as sodium cumene sulfonate could also be used.

In addition to the above mentioned surfactants, other suitable surfactants for detergent compositions can be found in the disclosures of U.S. Patents 3,544,473, 3,630,923, 3,88,781, 4,001,132, and 4,375,565.

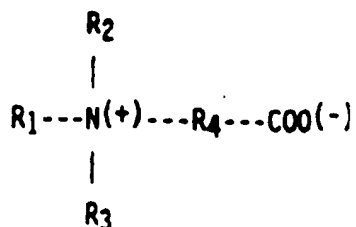
Anionic surfactants which are suitable for the compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, water soluble-alkyl sulfates and/or sulfonates, containing from 8 to 18 carbon atoms. Natural fatty alcohols include those produced by reducing the glycerides of naturally occurring fats and oils. Fatty alcohols can be produced synthetically, for example, by the Oxo process. Examples of suitable alcohols which can be employed in alkyl sulfate manufacture include decyl, lauryl, myristyl, palmityl and stearyl alcohols and the mixtures of fatty alcohols derived by reducing the glycerides of tallow and coconut oil.

Specific examples of alkyl sulfate salts which can be employed in the instant detergent compositions include sodium lauryl alkyl sulfate, sodium stearyl alkyl sulfate, sodium palmityl alkyl sulfate, sodium decyl sulfate, sodium myristyl

alkyl sulfate, potassium lauryl sulfate, potassium stearyl alkyl sulfate, potassium myristyl sulfate, potassium palmityl alkyl sulfate, potassium myristyl alkyl sulfate, sodium dodecyl sulfate, potassium dodecyl sulfate, potassium tallow alkyl sulfate, sodium tallow alkyl sulfate, sodium coconut alkyl sulfate, magnesium coconut alkyl sulfate, calcium coconut alkyl sulfate, potassium coconut alkyl sulfate and mixtures thereof. Highly preferred alkyl sulfates are sodium coconut alkyl sulfate, potassium coconut alkyl sulfate, potassium lauryl alkyl sulfate and sodium lauryl alkyl sulfate.

A preferred sulfonated anionic surfactant is the alkali metal salt of secondary alkane sulfonates, an example of which is the "Hostapur SAS" from Hoechst Celanese.

Another class of surfactants operable in the present invention are the water-soluble betaine surfactants. These materials have the general formula:



wherein R_1 is an alkyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms; R_2 and R_3 are each lower alkyl groups containing from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and R_4 is an alkylene group selected from the group consisting of methylene, propylene, butylene and pentylene. (Propionate betaines decompose in aqueous solution and hence are not included in the instant compositions).

Examples of suitable betaine compounds of this type include dodecyldimethylammonium acetate, tetradecyldimethylammonium acetate, hexadecyldimethylammonium acetate, alkyl dimethylammonium acetate wherein the alkyl group averages 14.8 carbon atoms in length, dodecyldimethylammonium butanoate, tetradecyldimethylammonium butanoate, hexadecyldimethylammonium butanoate, dodecyldimethylammonium hexanoate, hexadecyldimethylammonium hexanoate, tetradecyldimethylammonium pentanoate and tetradecyldipropylammonium pentanoate. Especially preferred betaine surfactants include dodecyldimethylammonium acetate, dodecyldimethylammonium hexanoate, hexadecyldimethylammonium acetate, and hexadecyldimethylammonium hexanoate.

Other surfactants include amine oxides, phosphine oxides, and sulfoxides. However, such surfactants are usually high sudsing. A disclosure of surfactants can be found in published British Patent Application 2,116,199A; U.S. Patent 4,005,027, Hartman; U.S. Patent 4,116,851, Rupe et al; U.S. Patent 3,985,668, Hartman; U.S. Patent 4,271,030, Bri-erley et al; and U.S. Patent 4,116,849, Leikhim.

Other desirable surfactants are the alkyl phosphonates, taught in U.S. Patent 4,105,573 to Jacobsen issued August 8, 1978.

Still other preferred anionic surfactants include the linear or branched alkali metal mono- and/or di-(C_{8-14}) alkyl diphenyl oxide mono- and/or disulfonates, commercially available under the trade names DOWFAX® 3B-2 (sodium n-decyl diphenyl oxide disulfonate) and DOWFAX® 2A-1. These and similar surfactants are disclosed in published U.K. Patent Applications 2,163,447A; 2,163,448A; and 2,164,350A.

Some of the above-described detergency builders additionally serve as buffering agents. It is preferred that the buffering agent contain at least one compound capable of additionally acting as a builder.

SILICATE

The compositions of the type described herein deliver their bleach and alkalinity to the wash water very quickly. Accordingly, they can be aggressive to metals, dishware, and other materials, which can result in either discoloration by etching, chemical reaction, etc. or weight loss. The alkali metal silicates described hereinafter provide protection against corrosion of metals and against attack on dishware, including fine china and glassware.

The SiO_2 level in the compositions of the present invention should be from 4% to 25%, preferably from 5% to 20%, more preferably from 6% to 15%, based on the weight of the automatic dishwashing detergent composition. The ratio of SiO_2 to the alkali metal oxide (M_2O , where M=alkali metal) is typically from 1 to 3.2, preferably from 1.6 to 3, more preferably from 2 to 2.4. Preferably, the alkali metal silicate is hydrous, having from 15% to 25% water, more preferably, from 17% to 20%.

The highly alkaline metasilicates can be employed, although the less alkaline hydrous alkali metal silicates having a $SiO_2:M_2O$ ratio of from 2.0 to 2.4 are preferred. Anhydrous forms of the alkali metal silicates with a $SiO_2:M_2O$ ratio of 2.0 or more are less preferred because they tend to be significantly less soluble than the hydrous alkali metal silicates having the same ratio.

Sodium and potassium, especially sodium, silicates are preferred. A particularly preferred alkali metal silicate is a granular hydrous sodium silicate having a $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratio of from 2.0 to 2.4 available from PQ Corporation, named "Britesil® H20 and "Britesil® H24. Most preferred is a granular hydrous sodium silicate having a $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratio of 2.0.

While typical forms, i.e. powder and granular, of hydrous silicate particles are suitable, preferred silicate particles have a mean particle size between 300 and 900 microns with less than 40% smaller than 150 microns and less than 5% larger than 1700 microns. Particularly preferred is a silicate particle with a mean particle size between 400 and 700 microns with less than 20% smaller than 150 microns and less than 1% larger than 1700 microns.

BLEACH INGREDIENT

Because of the use of enzymes in the compositions of the invention optionally contain an amount of bleach sufficient to provide the composition with from 0% to 5%, preferably from 0.1% to 5.0%, most preferably from 0.5% to 3.0%, of available oxygen based on the weight of the detergent composition.

The peroxyacid can be a preformed peroxyacid, or a combination of an inorganic persalt (e.g. sodium perborate or percarbonate) and an organic peroxyacid precursor which is converted to a peroxyacid when the combination of persalt and precursor is dissolved in water. The organic peroxyacid precursors are often referred to in the art as bleach activators.

Examples of suitable organic peroxyacids are disclosed in U.S. Patents 4,374,035, Bossu, issued February 15, 1983; 4,681,592, Hardy et al, issued July 21, 1987; 4,634,551, Burns et al, issued January 6, 1987; 4,686,063, Burns, issued August 11, 1987; 4,606,838, Burns, issued August 19, 1986; and 4,671,891, Hartman, issued June 9, 1987.

Examples of suitable oxygen-type bleaches and activators are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,411,934 (Chung et al), issued Nov. 1, 1983, 4,536,314, Hardy et al, issued August 20, 1985, 4,681,695, Divo issued July 21, 1987, and 4,539,130, Thompson et al, issued September 3, 1985.

Other Optional Polymers

Other polymers can be added for additional dispersancy properties and/or in the case of the present invention's granular compositions, as liquid binders.

Solutions of the film-forming polymers described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,379,080 (Murphy), issued Apr. 5, 1983, can be used as the liquid binder.

Suitable polymers for use in the aqueous solutions are at least partially neutralized or alkali metal, ammonium or substituted ammonium (e.g., mono-, di- or triethanolammonium) salts of polycarboxylic acids. The alkali metal, especially sodium salts are most preferred. While the molecular weight of the polymer can vary over a wide range, it preferably is from 1000 to 500,000, more preferably is from 2000 to 250,000, and most preferably is from 3000 to 100,000.

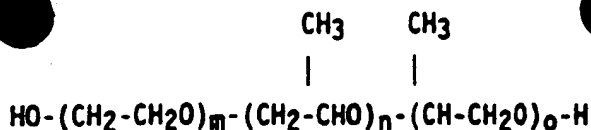
Other suitable polymers include those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,308,067 issued March 7, 1967, to Diehl. Unsaturated monomeric acids that can be polymerized to form suitable polymeric polycarboxylates include acrylic acid, maleic acid (or maleic anhydride), fumaric acid, itaconic acid, aconitic acid, mesaconic acid, citraconic acid and methylenemalononic acid. The presence of monomeric segments containing no carboxylate radicals such as vinylmethyl ether, styrene, ethylene, etc. is suitable provided that such segments do not constitute more than 40% by weight of the polymer.

Other suitable polymers for use herein are copolymers of acrylamide and acrylate having a molecular weight of from about 3,000 to 100,000, preferably from 4,000 to 20,000, and an acrylamide content of less than 50%, preferably less than 20%, by weight of the polymer. Most preferably, the polymer has a molecular weight of from 4,000 to 20,000 and an acrylamide content of from 0% to 15%, by weight of the polymer.

Particularly preferred are aqueous solutions of polyacrylates with an average molecular weight in acid form of from 1,000 to 10,000, and acrylate/maleate or acrylate/fumarate copolymers with an average molecular weight in acid form of from 2,000 to 80,000 and a ratio of acrylate of maleate or fumarate segments of from 30:1 to 2:1. This and other suitable copolymers based on a mixture of unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylate monomers are disclosed in European Patent Application No. 66,915, published December 15, 1982.

Other polymers useful herein include the polyethylene glycols and polypropylene glycols having a molecular weight of from 950 to 30,000 which can be obtained from the Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan. Such compounds for example, having a melting point within the range of from 30° to 100°C can be obtained at molecular weights of 1450, 3400, 4500, 6000, 7400, 9500, and 20,000. Such compounds are formed by the polymerization of ethylene glycol or propylene glycol with the requisite number of moles of ethylene or propylene oxide to provide the desired molecular weight and melting point of the respective polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol.

The polyethylene, polypropylene and mixed glycols are conveniently referred to by means of the structural formula



wherein m, n, and o are integers satisfying the molecular weight and temperature requirements given above.

Other polymers useful herein include the cellulose sulfate esters such as cellulose acetate sulfate, cellulose sulfate, hydroxyethyl cellulose sulfate, methylcellulose sulfate, and hydroxypropylcellulose sulfate. Sodium cellulose sulfate is the most preferred polymer of this group.

Other suitable polymers are the carboxylated polysaccharides, particularly starches, celluloses and alginates, described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,723,322, Diehl, issued Mar. 27, 1973; the dextrin esters of polycarboxylic acids disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,929,107, Thompson, issued Nov. 11, 1975; the hydroxyalkyl starch ethers, starch esters, oxidized starches, dextrans and starch hydrolysates described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,803,285, Jensen, issued Apr. 9, 1974; and the carboxylated starches described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,629,121, Eldib, issued Dec. 21, 1971; and the dextrin starches described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,141,841, McDonald, issued Feb. 27, 1979. Preferred polymers of the above group are the carboxymethyl celluloses.

Enzyme Stabilizing System

The preferred liquid enzyme containing compositions herein comprise from 0.001% to 10%, preferably from 0.005% to 8%, most preferably from 0.01% to 6%, by weight of an enzyme stabilizing system. The enzyme stabilizing system can be any stabilizing system which is compatible with the enzyme of the present invention. Such stabilizing systems can comprise calcium ion, boric acid, propylene glycol, short chain carboxylic acid, boronic acid, polyhydroxyl compounds and mixtures thereof.

For both granular and liquid compositions of the present invention, from 0 to 10%, preferably from 0.01% to 6% by weight, of chlorine bleach scavengers can be added to prevent chlorine bleach species present in many water supplies from attacking and inactivating the enzymes, especially under alkaline conditions. While chlorine levels in water may be small, typically in the range from 0.5 ppm to 1.75 ppm, the available chlorine in the total volume of water that comes in contact with the enzyme during dishwashing is usually large; accordingly, enzyme stability in-use can be problematic.

Suitable chlorine scavenger anions are salts containing ammonium cations. These can be selected from the group consisting of reducing materials like sulfite, bisulfite, thiosulfite, thiosulfate, iodide, etc., antioxidants like carbamate, ascorbate, etc., organic amines such as ethylenediaminetetracetic acid (EDTA) or alkali metal salt thereof and monoethanolamine (MEA), and mixtures thereof. Other conventional scavenging anions like sulfate, bisulfate, carbonate, bicarbonate, percarbonate, nitrate, chloride, borate, sodium perborate tetrahydrate, sodium perborate monohydrate, percarbonate, phosphate, condensed phosphate, acetate, benzoate, citrate, formate, lactate, malate, tartrate, salicylate, etc. and mixtures thereof can also be used.

Although the preferred ammonium salts can be simply admixed with the detergent composition, they are prone to adsorb water and/or give off ammonia gas. Accordingly, it is better if they are protected in a particle like that described in U.S. Patent 4,652,392, Baginski et al. The preferred ammonium salts or other salts of the specific chlorine scavenger anions can either replace the suds controlling agent or be added in addition to the suds controlling agent.

OTHER OPTIONAL INGREDIENTS

The automatic dishwashing compositions of the invention can optionally contain up to 50%, preferably from 2% to 20%, most preferably less than 4%, based on the weight of the low-foaming surfactant, of an alkyl phosphate ester suds suppressor. The phosphate esters useful herein also provide protection of silver and silver-plated utensil surfaces.

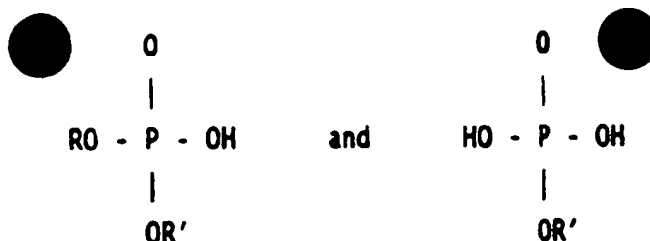
The alkyl phosphate esters have been used to reduce the sudsing of detergent compositions suitable for use in automatic dishwashing machines. The esters are particularly effective for reducing the sudsing of compositions comprising nonionic surfactants which are block polymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

Suitable alkyl phosphate esters are disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,314,891, issued April 18, 1967, to Schmolka et al.

The preferred alkyl phosphate esters contain from 16-20 carbon atoms. Highly preferred alkyl phosphate esters are monostearyl acid phosphate or monooleyl acid phosphate, or salts thereof, particularly alkali metal salts, or mixtures thereof.

The compositions of the present invention may optionally comprise certain esters of phosphoric acid (phosphate ester). Phosphate esters are any materials of the general formula:

5



10 wherein R and R' are C₆-C₂₀ alkyl or ethoxylated alkyl groups. Preferably R and R' are of the general formula: alkyl-(OCH₂CH₂)_Y wherein the alkyl substituent is C₁₂-C₁₈ and Y is between 0 and 4. Most preferably the alkyl substituent of that formula is C₁₂-C₁₈ and Y is between about 2 and about 4. Such compounds are prepared by known methods from phosphorus pentoxide, phosphoric acid, or phosphorus oxy halide and alcohols or ethoxylated alcohols.

15 It will be appreciated that the formula depicted represent mono- and di-esters, and commercial phosphate esters will generally comprise mixtures of the mono- and di-esters, together with some proportion of tri-ester. Typical commercial esters are available under the trademarks "Phospholan®" PDB3 (Diamond Shamrock), "Servoxyl®" VPAZ (Servo), "PCUK-PAE®" (BASF-Wyandotte), "SAPC®" (Hooker). Preferred for use in the present invention are "KN340N®" and "KL340N®" (Hoescht) and monostearyl acid phosphate (Occidental Chemical Corp.). Most preferred for use in the present invention is "Hostophat®-TP-2253" (Hoescht).

20 Other compounds known, or which become known, for reducing or suppressing the formation of suds can be incorporated into the compositions of the present invention. Suitable suds suppressors are described in Kirk Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Third Edition, Volume 7, pages 430-447 (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1979), U.S. Patent 2,954,347, issued September 27, 1960 to St. John, U.S. Patent 4,265,779, issued May 5, 1981 to Gandolfo et al., U.S. Patent 4,265,779, issued May 5, 1981 to Gandolfo et al. and European Patent No. EP-354016, published February 7, 1990, U.S. Patent 3,455,839, German Patent Application DOS 2,124,526, U.S. Patent 3,933,672, Bartolotta et al., and U.S. Patent 4,652,392, Baginski et al., issued March 24, 1987.

Filler materials can also be present including sucrose, sucrose esters, sodium chloride, sodium sulfate, potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, etc., in amounts up to 70%, preferably from 0% to 40%.

30 Liquid detergent compositions can contain water and other solvents as carriers. Low molecular weight primary or secondary alcohols exemplified by methanol, ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol are suitable. Monohydric alcohols are preferred for solubilizing surfactant, but polyols such as those containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and from 2 to 6 hydroxy groups (e.g., propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerine, and 1,2-propanediol) can also be used.

A wide variety of other ingredients useful in detergent compositions can be included in the compositions hereof, including other active ingredients, carriers, hydrotropes, draining promoting agents, processing aids, corrosion inhibitors, dyes or pigments, oxygen bleaches, bleach activators, etc.

35 Bleach-stable perfumes (stable as to odor); bleach-stable dyes (such as those disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,714,562, Roselle et al, issued December 22, 1987); and bleach-stable enzymes and crystal modifiers and the like can also be added to the present compositions in appropriate amounts. Other commonly used detergent ingredients can also be included.

40 The viscoelastic, thixotropic thickening agent in the preferred liquid compositions of the present invention is from 0.1% to 10%, preferably from 0.25% to 5%, most preferably from 0.5% to 3%, by weight of the detergent composition.

Preferably the thickening agent is a polymer with a molecular weight from 500,000 to 10,000,000, more preferably from 750,000 to 4,000,000.

45 The polymer is preferably a polycarboxylate polymer, more preferably a carboxyvinyl polymer. Such compounds are disclosed in U.S. Patent 2,798,053, issued on July 2, 1957, to Brown.

Methods for making carboxyvinyl polymers are also disclosed in Brown. Carboxyvinyl polymers are substantially insoluble in liquid, volatile organic hydrocarbons and are dimensionally stable on exposure to air.

50 Various carboxyvinyl polymers, homopolymers and copolymers are commercially available from B.F. Goodrich Company, New York, N.Y., under the trade name Carbopol®. These polymers are also known as carbomers or polyacrylic acids. Carboxyvinyl polymers useful in formulations of the present invention include Carbopol® 910 having a molecular weight of 750,000, Carbopol® 941 having a molecular weight of 1,250,000, and Carbopols® 934 and 940 having molecular weights of 3,000,000 and 4,000,000, respectively. More preferred are the series of Carbopols which use ethyl acetate and cyclohexane in the manufacturing process, Carbopol® 981, 2984, 980, and 1382.

55 Preferred polycarboxylate polymers of the present invention are non-linear, water-dispersible, polyacrylic acid cross-linked with a polyalkenyl polyether and having a molecular weight of from 750,000 to 4,000,000.

Highly preferred examples of these polycarboxylate polymers for use in the present invention are Sokalan® PHC-25®, a polyacrylic acid available from BASF Corporation, the "Carbopol 600" series resins available from B.F. Goodrich, and more preferred is "Polygel® DK" available from 3-V Chemical Corporation. Mixtures of polycarboxylate polymers

as herein described may also be used in the present invention.

The polycarboxylate polymer thickening agent is preferably utilized with essentially no clay thickening agents since the presence of clay usually results in a less desirable product having opacity and phase instability.

Other types of thickeners which can be used in this composition include natural gums, such as xanthan gum, locust bean gum, guar gum, and the like. The cellulosic type thickeners hydroxyethyl and hydroxymethyl cellulose ("ETHOCEL®" and "METHOCEL®", available from Dow Chemical) can also be used.

In the instant compositions, one or more buffering agents can be included which are capable of maintaining the pH of the compositions within the desired alkaline range. The pH of the undiluted composition ("as is") is determined at room temperature (about 20°C) with a pH meter. It is in the low alkaline pH range that optimum performance and stability of an enzyme are realized, and it is also within this pH range wherein optimum compositional chemical and physical stability are achieved. For compositions herein containing chlorine bleach, it is the high alkaline range that optimum performance and stability is achieved.

Maintenance of the composition pH between 7 and 14, preferably between 8 and 11.5, for compositions herein containing enzymes. The lower pH range for enzyme containing compositions of the invention minimizes undesirable degradation of the active enzymes.

The pH adjusting agents are generally present in a level from 0.001% to 25%, preferably from 0.5% to 20% by weight of the detergent composition.

Any compatible material or mixture of materials which has the effect of maintaining the composition pH within the pH range of 7 to 14, preferably 8 to 11.5, can be utilized as the pH adjusting agent in the instant invention. Such agents can include, for example, various water-soluble, inorganic salts such as the carbonates, bicarbonates, sesquicarbonates, pyrophosphates, phosphates, silicates, tetraborates, and mixtures thereof. Silicates are not included in liquid compositions of the invention containing enzyme because of their high alkaline buffering properties.

Examples of preferred materials which can be used either alone or in combination as the pH adjusting agent herein include sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium sesquicarbonate, sodium pyrophosphate, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, tripotassium phosphate, trisodium phosphate, organic amines and their salts such as monoethanol amine (MEA), anhydrous sodium tetraborate, sodium tetraborate pentahydrate, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and sodium tetraborate decahydrate. Combinations of these pH adjusting agents, which include both the sodium and potassium salts, may be used.

Metal salts of long chain fatty acids and/or long chain hydroxy fatty acids have been found to be useful in automatic dishwashing detergent compositions as rheological modifiers and to inhibit tarnishing caused by repeated exposure of sterling or silver-plate flatware to bleach-containing automatic dishwashing detergent compositions (U.S. Patent 4,859,358, Gabriel et al). By "long chain" is meant the higher aliphatic fatty acids or hydroxy fatty acids having from 6 to 24 carbon atoms, preferably from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, and more preferably from 10 to 20 carbon atoms and most preferably from 12 to 18, inclusive of the carbon atom of carboxyl group of the fatty acid, e.g., stearic acid, and hydroxy stearic acid. By "metal salts" of the long chain fatty acids and/or hydroxy fatty acids is meant both monovalent and polyvalent metal salts, particularly the sodium, potassium, lithium, aluminum, and zinc salts, e.g., lithium salts of the fatty acids. Specific examples of this material are aluminum, potassium, sodium, calcium and lithium stearate or hydroxy stearate, particularly preferred is aluminum tristearate. If the metal salts of long chain hydroxy fatty acids are incorporated into the automatic dishwashing detergent compositions of the present invention, this component generally comprises from 0.01% to 2%, preferably from 0.05% to 0.2% by weight of the composition.

If fatty acids are to be used in the formulation, additional processing requirements may be needed. The most common fatty acid used in conventional liquid automatic dishwashing detergents are metal salts of stearate and hydroxy-stearate, for example aluminum tristearate and sodium stearate. Similar to the polymer thickener, these materials are difficult to process and should be substantially dispersed in the product in order to function as intended. There are various methods for incorporating the fatty acid material. The first is to add the material as a powder to the batch without any special processing steps - such as any solid form builder would be added. The batch should be well mixed and observed to ensure that a dispersion has been achieved. A more preferred method is to liquify the fatty acid or dissolve it in a hot liquid mixture and then add it to the batch. The most preferred method is to use an eductor or tri-blender to add the fatty acid to the premix. This most preferred method gives the best dispersion and is the least process intensive.

An alkali metal salt of an amphoteric metal anion (metallate), such as aluminate, can be added to provide additional structuring to the polycarboxylate polymer thickening agent. See U.S. Patent 4,941,988, Wise, issued July 17, 1990.

Granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition of the present invention may contain base granules formed by an agglomeration process, which requires a liquid binder. The liquid binder can be employed in an amount from 3% to about 45%, preferably from 4% to 25%, most preferably from 5% to 20%, by weight of the base granules. The liquid binder can be water, aqueous solutions of alkali metal salts of a polycarboxylic acid and/or nonionic surfactant described herein above.

Preferably, the liquid binder of a water-soluble polymer listed above can be an aqueous solution comprising from 10% to 70%, preferably from 20% to 60%, and most preferably from 30% to 50%, by weight of the water-soluble polymer.

Low-foaming nonionic surfactants and the low molecular weight modified polyacrylate both described above can also be used as a liquid binder provided they are in the liquid form or are premixed with another liquid binder.

In general, the liquid binder can comprise any one or a mixture of the binders described above.

5 Composition

Preferred granular and viscoelastic, thixotropic, liquid, polymer-containing detergent compositions hereof will preferably be formulated such that during use in aqueous operations, the wash water will have a pH of between 7 and 12, preferably between about 8 and 11.

10 Preferred liquid compositions herein are gel and/or paste automatic dishwashing detergent compositions, more preferably gel automatic dishwashing detergent compositions.

This invention also allows for concentrated automatic dishwashing detergent compositions. By "concentrated" is meant that these compositions will deliver to the wash the same amount of active detergent ingredients at a lower dosage.

15 Concentrated automatic dishwashing detergent compositions herein contain 10 to 100 weight % more active detergent ingredients than regular automatic dishwashing detergent compositions. Preferred are automatic dishwashing detergent compositions with from 10 to 100, preferably 20 to 90, most preferably 25 to 80, weight % of active detergent ingredients.

EXAMPLE I

20 Gel automatic dishwashing detergent compositions of the present invention are as follows:

Table 1

Ingredients	% by weight		
	A	B	C
BUILDERS/BUFFERS			
Sodium citrate, dihydrate	0.00	15.00	27.00
Sodium carbonate	17.00	8.50	0.00
30 Sodium hydroxide	0.00	0.00	1.60
THICKENERS			
Polycarboxylate polymer ¹	1.75	1.75	1.75
Nitric Acid	0.02	0.02	0.02
DISPERSANT/SURFACTANT			
3500MW modified polyacrylate (active basis)	10.20	5.10	4.00
Nonionic surfactant ²	2.50	2.50	2.50
40 STABILIZERS			
Monoethanolamine	1.91	1.91	1.91
Boric Acid	2.00	2.00	2.00
STAIN REMOVAL AGENTS			
ProteaseB ³	0.024	0.024	0.024
Amylase ⁴	650	650	650
AESTHETICS			
Dye	0.10	0.10	0.10
Perfume	0.016	0.016	0.016
Water	-----balance-----		

¹polygel DK"

²pluronic® 25R2 nonionic surfactant

³ProteaseB, compositions are specified in Anson Units per gram of product.

⁴Maxamyl®, amylase compositions are specified in Amylase Units per gram of product.

EXAMPLE II

Granular automatic dishwashing detergents of the present invention are as follows:

Table 2

Ingredients	% by weight		
	Formula D	Formula E	Formula F
BUILDERS/BUFFERS			
Sodium citrate, dihydrate	42.50	17.00	20.00
Sodium carbonate or bicarbonate	0.00	20.00	40.00
Hydrated 2.0 ratio sodium silicate	33.00	19.00	10.00
DISPERSANT/SURFACTANT			
3500MW modified polyacrylate (active basis)	4.00	6.00	8.00
Nonionic surfactant	1.50	3.50	5.00
BLEACH			
Sodium perborate or percarbonate	5.00-10.00	5.00-10.00	5.00-15.00
TAED	3.50	0.00	3.50
ENZYMES			
Savinase® 6.0T	2.20	2.00	1.00-3.00
Termamyl® 60T	1.50	1.10	0.50-1.50
OTHER			
Perfume, dye, water and filler	-----balance-----		

EXAMPLE III

The following gel detergent products are prepared:

Table 3

Ingredients	% by weight		
	Formula G	Formula H	Formula I
Sodium carbonate	17.00	17.00	17.00
1,2-Propanediol	4.50	4.50	4.50
"Pluronic 25R2"	2.50	2.50	2.50
4500 MW sodium polyacrylate (active basis) ¹	10.20	-	-
2000 MW polyacrylate (active basis)	-	10.20	-
3500 MW modified polyacrylate (active basis)	-	-	10.20
Monoethanolamine	1.91	1.91	1.91
Boric acid	1.95	1.95	1.95
Polymeric thickener	1.65	1.65	1.65
Savinase® 32.0L	0.42	0.42	0.42
Naxamyl® WL 15,000	0.22	0.22	0.22
Water and miscellaneous	-----balance-----		

¹ Acusol® 445N

The multi-cycle spotting and filming performance of Formulas G, H, and I are evaluated using glass tumblers (6 per machine) washed for 7 cycles in General Electric automatic dishwashers. Product usages are 50% of the automatic dishwasher's prewash and mainwash dispenser cup volumes. 36 g of a test soil containing fat and protein are added to each machine at the beginning of the second through seventh cycles. Water hardness is 2.22 mmol Ca²⁺/Litre with

a 3:1 calcium/magnesium ratio and the wash temperature is 66.66°C (120°F). The entire test is replicated 4 times and the glasses are graded separately for both spotting and filming performance against photographic standards (scale = 4-9, with 4 the worst and 9 the best).

Table 4

	Spotting	Filming
Formula G	8.48	6.44
Formula H	8.42	6.79
Formula I	8.33	7.00
LSD (.95) ¹	0.20	0.18

¹Least Significant Difference calculated at the 95% confidence level.

Formula I, which contains a 3500 MW modified polyacrylate copolymer, is seen to provide significantly better filming performance than either Formula G, which contains a 4500 MW sodium polyacrylate homopolymer, or Formula H, which contains a 2000 MW polyacrylate homopolymer.

EXAMPLE IV

The following granular detergent products are prepared:

Table 5

Ingredients	% by weight	
	Formula J	Formula K
Sodium citrate dihydrate	17.08	17.08
Sodium carbonate	20.00	20.00
4500 MW sodium polyacrylate (active basis) ¹	6.00	-
3500 MW modified polyacrylate (active basis)	-	6.00
Hydrated 2.0 ratio sodium silicate	19.23	19.23
Nonionic surfactant	3.50	3.50
Sodium sulfate	22.02	22.02
Sodium perborate monohydrate	9.87	9.87
Savinase® 6.0T	1.50	1.50
Termamyl® 60T	0.80	0.80
Water	-----balance-----	

¹Acusol® 445N

Tough food cleaning performance is evaluated by preparing samples of mozzarella cheese and cooked egg yolk baked onto stainless steel coupons and liquified cooked spaghetti baked onto pyrex coupons. The test coupons are then washed with the products for 15 minutes followed by a 2 minute rinse using an automatic miniature dishwasher. Product usages are 2682 ppm. Water hardness is 1.197 mmol Ca²⁺/litre (7 grains per gallon) with a 3:1 calcium/magnesium ratio and the wash temperature is 66.66°C (120°F). The entire test is replicated 4 times and the percent soil removal values were determined gravimetrically.

Percent Gravimetric Removal

Table 6

	Cheese	Egg	Spaghetti
Formula J	24.4	32.8	48.7
Formula K	30.4	35.7	58.7
LSD (.90)	5.5	4.0	8.9
¹ Least Significant Difference calculated at the 90% confidence level.			

Formula K, which contains 3500 MW modified polyacrylate copolymer, provides significantly better tough food cleaning performance than Formula J, which contains a 4500 MW sodium polyacrylate homopolymer.

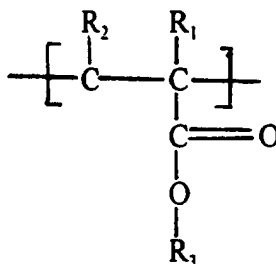
EXAMPLE V

Compositions A-F and J of Examples I-IV are supplemented by the addition of 0.5% by weight of the sodium salt of ethane 1-hydroxy-1, 1 diphosphonic acid.

Claims

1. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition characterised in that the detergent composition comprises by weight:

- a) from 0.01% to 90% detergency builder;
- b) from 0.1% to 20% modified polyacrylate copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 15,000 said polyacrylate copolymer is from 90% to 10% by weight acrylic acid or its salts and from 10% to 90% by weight of a substituted acrylic monomer having the general formula:



wherein at least one of the substituents R_1 , R_2 or R_3 is a 1 to 4 carbon alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R_1 or R_2 can be hydrogen, R_3 can be hydrogen or alkali metal salt; and

- c) from 0.001% to 5% deterative enzyme said composition providing enhanced filming and enzyme performance.

2. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to Claim 1 wherein said detergency builder is selected from the group consisting of water-soluble, alkali metal, ammonium or substituted ammonium phosphates, polyphosphates, phosphonates, polyphosphonates, carbonate, bicarbonate, borates, polyhydroxysulfonates, polyacetates, carboxylates polycarboxylates, and mixtures thereof, said detergent composition preferably including ethane-1-hydroxy-1 diphosphonic acid or its alkali metal salts at a level from 0.01% to 20% by weight of the composition.
3. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to Claims 1 or 2 further comprising from 0.01% to 40% low foaming detergent surfactant, preferably nonionic surfactant.
4. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising from 15% to 80% detergency builder and wherein said detergency builder is selected from the group consisting of carbonate, bicarbonate, polyacetates, carboxylates, polycarboxylates, and mixtures thereof, said detergent composition preferably including ethane-1-hydroxy-1 diphosphonic acid or its alkali metal salts at a level from 0.01% to 20% by weight of the composition.
5. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising bleach sufficient to provide 0.1% to 5.0% by weight available oxygen, preferably said bleach is percarbonate.
6. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the deterative enzyme is selected from the group consisting of protease, amylase, lipase and mixture thereof.

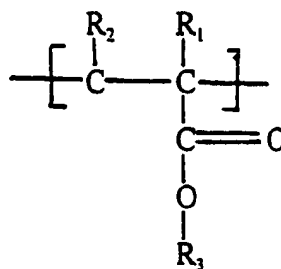
7. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising from 0.005 to 3% by weight protease or amylase.
8. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the molecular weight of the modified polyacrylate copolymer is from 500 to 10,000.
9. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said molecular weight of said modified polyacrylate copolymer is from 1,000 to 5,000 and is 70% by weight acrylic acid and 30% by weight methylacrylic acid.
10. An automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to claim 9 wherein the molecular weight of the modified polyacrylate copolymer is 3,500.
11. A granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising alkali metal silicate and wherein said composition is agglomerated with from 4% to 25% by weight of a liquid binder selected from the group consisting of water, aqueous solution(s) of alkali metal salts of a polycarboxylic acid, nonionic surfactant and mixtures thereof.
12. A granular automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising from 0.01% to 6% by weight chlorine bleach scavengers and from 0.001% to 10% of enzyme stabilizing system preferably selected from the group consisting of calcium ion, boric acid, propylene glycol, short chain carboxylic acid, boronic acid, polyhydroxyl compounds and mixtures thereof.
13. A gel automatic dishwashing detergent composition according to Claims 1-7 further comprising from 0.1% to 10% of thixotropic thickening agent, preferably having a polymer with a molecular weight from 500,000 to 10,000,000.

Patentansprüche

1. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Reinigerzusammensetzung auf Gewichtsbasis folgendes umfaßt:

a) 0,01 bis 90 % Waschmittelbuilder;

b) 0,1 bis 20 % modifiziertes Polyacrylatcopolymer mit einem Molekulargewicht von weniger als 15.000, wobei das Polyacrylatcopolymer 90 bis 10 Gew.-% Acrylsäure oder deren Salze und 10 bis 90 Gew.-% eines substituierten Acrylmonomeren der allgemeinen Formel umfaßt:



worin mindestens einer der Substituenten R_1 , R_2 oder R_3 eine Alkyl- oder Hydroxyalkylgruppe mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen ist, R_1 oder R_2 Wasserstoff sein kann, R_3 Wasserstoff oder ein Alkalimetallsalz sein kann; und

c) 0,001 bis 5 % Waschenzym, wobei die Zusammensetzung verbesserte Filmbildung und Enzymleistungsfähigkeit vorsieht.

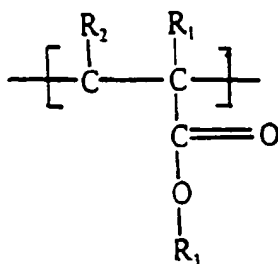
2. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Waschmittelbuilder aus der Gruppe gewählt ist, bestehend aus wasserlöslichen, Alkalimetall-, Ammonium- oder substituierten Ammoniumphosphaten, -polyphosphaten, -phosphonaten, -polyphosphonaten, -carbonat, -bicarbonat, -boraten, -polyhydroxysulfonaten, -polyacetaten, -carboxylaten, -polycarboxylaten und Mischungen hiervon, wobei die Reini-

gerzusammensetzung vorzugsweise Ethan-1-hydroxy-1-diphosphonsäure oder deren Alkalimetallsalze in einem Anteil von 0,01 bis 20 Gew.-% der Zusammensetzung beinhaltet.

3. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, umfassend weiterhin 0,01 bis 40 % geringschäumendes Waschtensid, vorzugsweise nichtionisches Tensid.
4. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend 15 bis 80 % Waschmittelbuilder, und wobei der Waschmittelbuilder aus der Gruppe gewählt ist, bestehend aus Carbonat, Bicarbonat, Polyacetaten, Carboxylaten, Polycarboxylaten und Mischungen hiervon, wobei die Reinigerzusammensetzung vorzugsweise Ethan-1-hydroxy-1-diphosphonsäure oder deren Alkalimetallsalze in einem Anteil von 0,01 bis 20 Gew.-% der Zusammensetzung beinhaltet.
5. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend weiterhin Bleichmittel in ausreichender Menge, um 0,1 bis 5,0 Gew.-% verfügbaren Sauerstoff vorzusehen, wobei das Bleichmittel vorzugsweise Percarbonat ist.
6. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei das Waschenzym aus der Gruppe gewählt ist, bestehend aus Protease, Amylase, Lipase und Mischungen hiervon.
7. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend 0,005 bis 3 Gew.-% Protease oder Amylase.
8. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei das Molekulargewicht des modifizierten Polyacrylatcopolymeren 500 bis 10.000 beträgt.
9. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei das Molekulargewicht des modifizierten Polyacrylatcopolymeren 1.000 bis 5.000 beträgt und aus 70 Gew.-% Acrylsäure und 30 Gew.-% Methacrylsäure aufgebaut ist.
10. Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach Anspruch 9, wobei das Molekulargewicht des modifizierten Polyacrylatcopolymeren 3.500 beträgt.
11. Granuläre Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend weiterhin Alkalimetallsilicat und wobei die Zusammensetzung mit 4 bis 25 Gew.-% eines flüssigen Bindemittels agglomeriert ist, gewählt aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus Wasser, wäßrige Lösung (en) von Alkalimetallsalzen einer Polycarbonsäure, nichtionisches Tensid und Mischungen hiervon.
12. Granuläre Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach mindestens einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend weiterhin 0,01 bis 6 Gew.-% Chlorbleichmittel-Fänger und 0,001 bis 10 % Enzymstabilisierendes System, vorzugsweise gewählt aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus Kalziumionen, Borsäure, Propylenglykol, kurzkettige Carbonsäure, Boronsäure, Polyhydroxylverbindungen und Mischungen hiervon.
13. Gelförmige Reinigerzusammensetzung zum maschinellen Geschirrspülen nach den Ansprüchen 1-7, umfassend weiterhin 0,1 bis 10 % thixotropes Verdickungsmittel, vorzugsweise ein Polymer mit einem Molekulargewicht von 500.000 bis 10.000.000 aufweisend.

Revendications

1. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle, caractérisée en ce que la composition détergente comprend, en poids:
 - (a) de 0,01% à 90% d'adjuvant de détergence;
 - (b) de 0,1% à 20% de copolymère polyacrylate modifié ayant une masse moléculaire inférieure à 15 000, ledit copolymère polyacrylate étant constitué pour 90% à 10% en poids d'acide acrylique ou de ses sels et pour 10% à 90% en poids d'un monomère acrylique substitué de de formule générale:



dans laquelle au moins un des substituants R_1 , R_2 ou R_3 est un groupe alkyle ou hydroxyalkyle de 1 à 4 atomes de carbone, R_1 ou R_2 peut être un atome d'hydrogène, R_3 peut être un atome d'hydrogène ou un sel de métal alcalin; et

(c) de 0,001% à 5% d'enzyme détersive, ladite composition fournissant une performance améliorée de formation de voile et une performance enzymatique améliorée.

2. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que ledit adjuvant de détergence est choisi dans le groupe constitué par les phosphates, polyphosphates, phosphonates, polyphosphonates, carbonate, bicarbonate, borates, polyhydroxysulfonates, polyacétates, carboxylates, polycarboxylates de métal alcalin, d'ammonium ou d'ammonium substitué, solubles dans l'eau, et leurs mélanges, ladite composition détergente contenant de préférence de l'acide éthane-1-hydroxy-1-diphosphonique ou ses sels de métal alcalin, dans une proportion de 0,01% à 20% en poids de la composition.
3. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon la revendication 1 ou 2, comprenant, en outre, de 0,01% à 40% de tensioactif détergent faiblement moussant, de préférence un tensioactif non ionique.
4. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant de 15% à 80% d'adjuvant de détergence et dans laquelle ledit adjuvant de détergence est choisi dans le groupe constitué par les carbonate, bicarbonate, polyacétates, carboxylates, polycarboxylates et leurs mélanges, ladite composition détergente contenant de préférence de l'acide éthane-1-hydroxy-1-diphosphonique ou ses sels de métal alcalin, dans une proportion de 0,01% à 20% en poids de la composition.
5. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant, en outre, suffisamment d'agent de blanchiment pour fournir 0,1% à 5,0% en poids d'oxygène actif, ledit agent de blanchiment étant de préférence un percarbonate.
6. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisée en ce que ladite enzyme détersive est choisie dans le groupe constitué par une protéase, une amylase, une lipase et un mélange de celles-ci.
7. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant de 0,005 à 3% en poids de protéase ou d'amylase.
8. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans laquelle la masse moléculaire du copolymère polyacrylate modifié est de 500 à 10 000.
9. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisée en ce que ladite masse moléculaire dudit copolymère polyacrylate modifié est de 1 000 à 5 000 et il est constitué pour 70% en poids d'acide acrylique et pour 30% en poids d'acide méthylacrylique.
10. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon la revendication 9, caractérisée en ce que la masse moléculaire du copolymère polyacrylate modifié est de 3 500.
11. Composition détergente pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant, en outre, un silicate de métal alcalin et dans laquelle ladite composition est agglomérée avec de 4% à 25% en poids d'un liant liquide choisi dans le groupe constitué par l'eau, une ou des solutions aqueuses de sels de métaux alcalins d'un poly(acide carboxylique), un tensioactif non ionique et leurs mélanges.

12. Composition détergente moussante pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon l'un quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant, en outre, de 0,01% à 6% en poids d'épurateurs d'agents de blanchiment chlorés et de 0,001% à 10% de système stabilisant les enzymes, choisi de préférence dans le groupe constitué par l'ion calcium, l'acide borique, le propylèneglycol, un acide carboxylique à chaîne courte, l'acide boronique, les composés polyhydroxylés, et leurs mélanges.

13. Composition détergente en gel pour le lavage automatique de la vaisselle selon les revendications 1 à 7, comprenant, en outre, de 0,1% à 10% d'agent épaississant thixotrope, ayant de préférence un polymère de masse moléculaire 500 000 à 10 000 000.